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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC No. 01832-86
9 April 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: [ ]
Assistant National Intelligence Officer for Europe

25X1

SUBJECT: Possible Talking Item for DCI Meeting with Secretary's
Shultz and Weinberger on Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia: Rising Tensions in Kosovo

1. Ethnic strains between Slavs and Albanians in the Province of
Kosovo are nearing flash points at a time when events of national
significance might compound the embarrassment and confuse the handling of
any unrest.

-- A new government led by disciplinarian Branko Mikulic comes
to power in May and he is already pulling strings from the
sidelines on most important issues.

-- The party will open its congress on 25 June and will want
to contest any unpleasantness as soon as possible.

But the issues are complex and passions are running high and it will take
a good deal of skill and luck to avoid violence.

2. The issue this time is the Serb-Montenegrin minority's outrage at
mistreatment by Albanians and failures of Albanian officials to offer
adequate protection.

-- Last week thousands of Serb slavs gathered to protest the
arrest of two leaders for political agitation.

3. The crowds were orderly and the police eventually released the
arrestees but tensions continue to build.

-- 500 Kosovo-Serbs went to Belgrade for an unauthorized march
to demand redress of their grievances this week.

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-- Others have denounced local Albanian leaders by name for fostering Albanian chauvinism and driving Serbs and Montenegrins into migration.

-- The activists are working hand-in-hand with dissident Serb nationalists from outside Kosovo and the risk of a spread of the agitation to Serbia proper is real and growing.

4. So far the authorities have handled the challenges with kid gloves. They have been loathe to call on the police and the military to use force against the Serbs who are real victims, and sentiments in those services run against the Albanians who rioted in 1981 causing considerable bloodshed. But government patience will wear thin if the situation does not cool soon.

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